

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A connector comprising:

a signal array having a plurality of shielded conductors with opposite ends, each shielded conductor including an axial conductive element and an outer conductive element completely surrounding the axial conductive element;

the plurality of shielded conductors arranged in a body structure so that the inner and outer conductive elements are electrically presented at a contact face surface of the body structure in a generally co-planar arrangement wherein the generally co-planar arrangement is generally co-planar with the contact face surface of the body structure

a compressible interface element positioned at the contact face surface of the body structure of the signal array, the interface element including a layer of insulating material having a plurality of conductive elements extending through the insulating material layer;

the compressible interface element, when compressed between the contact face surface of the body structure ~~signal array~~ and a signal bearing component, maintaining, through the interface element, the geometric arrangements of the axial conductive elements and the completely surrounding outer conductive elements of the shielded conductors presented at the contact face ~~of the surface of the~~ body structure ~~array~~, to pass signals with the signal bearing component.

2. (Previously Presented) The connector of claim 1 wherein the at least one shielded conductor includes length of semi-rigid coax.

3. (Previously Presented) The connector of claim 1 wherein at least one shielded conductor includes a length semi-rigid twinax.

4. (Previously Presented) The connector of claim 1 further comprising a fastener used to compress the compressible interface element to maintain the geometric arrangement of the axial conductive element and the surrounding outer conductive element through the interface element.

5. (Currently Amended) The connector of claim 1 further comprising:

a signal bearing component including a plurality of land areas;

the land areas configured for coupling with ~~[[the]]~~ axial conductive elements and the outer conductive elements of ~~[[a]]~~ respective shielded conductors of the signal array.

6. (Currently Amended) The connector of claim 1 further comprising:

the other ends of the shielded conductors presented at an opposing contact face surface of the body structure;

a second compressible interface element positioned at the opposing contact face surface of the signal array, the second interface element including a layer of insulating

material having a plurality of conductive elements extending through the insulating material layer;

the second compressible interface element, when compressed between the signal array and a second signal bearing component, maintaining, through the interface element, the geometric arrangements of the axial conductive element and the surrounding outer conductive element of the shielded conductors, presented at the opposing contact face surface of the array[s], to pass a signal with the second signal bearing component.

7. (Previously Presented) The connector of claim 6 wherein the first signal bearing component is a circuit board including at least one land area;

the land area configured for coupling with the axial conductive element and the surrounding outer conductive element of the shield conductor.

8. (Previously Presented) The connector of claim 7 wherein the second signal bearing component is a circuit board including at least one land area;

the land area configured for coupling with the axial conductive element and the surrounding outer conductive element of the shield conductor;

the land areas on the first and second circuit boards corresponding.

9. (Original)The connector of claim 8 wherein the first and second circuit boards are substantially parallel.

10. (Original) The connector of claim 8 wherein the circuit boards are substantially orthogonal.

11. (Original) The connector of claim 10 further comprising at least one fastener to compress the first compressible interface element between the first circuit board and the signal array.

12. (Original) The connector of claim 11 further comprising a latch coupled to the first circuit board and configured to press the signal array against the second circuit board compressing the second compressible interface element.

13. Canceled.

14. (Previously Presented) The connector of claim 1 wherein the multiple shielded conductors are molded into the body structure.

15. (Previously Presented) The connector of claim 14 wherein a contact surface of the body structure is machined.

16. (Currently Amended) The connector of claim 14 wherein a guide pin is molded into the body structure, the guide pin configured to aid in alignment of the shielded land areas and the ~~axial conductive element and the outer conductive element of the~~ respective shielded conductor.

17. (Currently Amended) A connector comprising:

a signal array having a plurality of shielded conductors, each including an axial conductive element and an outer conductive element surrounding the axial conductive element;

a compressible interface element positioned at a contact face surface of the body structure of the signal array, the interface element including a layer of insulating material having a plurality of conductive elements extending through the insulating material layer;

the compressible interface element, when compressed between the contact face surface and a signal bearing component, maintaining the geometric arrangements of the axial conductive elements and the outer conductive elements with the signal bearing component; ~~The connector of claim 1 further comprising a clip;~~

the multiple shielded conductors molded into a body structure formed of multiple blocks;

~~[[the]]~~ a clip configured to hold the multiple blocks in alignment under pressure.

18. (Currently Amended) The connector of claim ~~[[13]]~~ 1 wherein the multiple shielded conductors are coupled to at least one wafer.

19. (Previously Presented) A connector comprising:

a signal array having a plurality of shielded conductors having opposite ends and including an axial conductive element and an outer conductive element surrounding the axial conductive element;

a compressible interface element positioned at least one of the opposite ends of the signal array, the interface element including a layer of insulating material having a plurality of conductive elements extending through the insulating material layer;

wherein the plurality of shielded conductors are molded to multiple wafers forming mounting ends on each wafer;

the compressible interface element, when compressed between the signal array and a signal bearing component, maintaining the geometric arrangement of the axial conductive element and the outer conductive element to the signal bearing component.

20. (Original) The connector of claim 19 wherein a contact surface of the mounting ends is machined.

21. (Original) The connector of claim 19 wherein a guide pin is molded into one of the mounting ends, the guide pin configured to aid in alignment of the shielded land area and the axial conductive element and the outer conductive element of the shield conductor connector.
22. (Original) The connector of claim 1 wherein the compressible interface element is constructed of silicon rubber with anisotropic conductive properties.
23. (Original) The connector of claim 1 wherein the conductive elements of the compressible interface element are 300 to 2,000 fine metal wires per square centimeter.
24. (Original) The connector of claim 23 wherein the fine metal wires are gold-plated to ensure low resistivity and the ability to withstand relatively high current flow.
25. Canceled.
26. Canceled.
27. Canceled.
28. Canceled.
29. Canceled.
30. (Currently Amended) The connector assembly of claim 1 wherein the signal-bearing component is a circuit board.

31. Canceled.
32. Canceled.
33. Canceled.
34. Canceled.
35. Canceled.
36. Canceled.
37. Canceled.
38. Canceled.
39. Canceled.
40. Canceled.
41. Canceled.
42. Canceled.
43. Canceled.
44. Canceled.